



State of Wisconsin
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NEWS RELEASE

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Five schools to receive Governor's School Health awards

Applications for second cycle awards due May 5

MADISON—Five schools will receive Governor's School Health awards in recognition of their efforts to develop programs, policies, and resources that support students' academic achievement and long-term physical health.

Schools earning Governor's School Health awards, to be presented April 13 at the Capitol in Madison, strive to promote healthy eating, physical activity, alcohol- and drug-free lifestyles, and parental and community involvement. **Edison Elementary School** in Appleton, **Lac du Flambeau Public School**, **North Lakeland Elementary School** in Manitowish Waters, and **Spooner Middle School** will receive Bronze Governor's School Health Awards. **Marshall Middle School** of Janesville will receive a Gold Governor's School Health Award.

"Schools receiving these awards have created an environment where students can become fit and healthy, and are ready to learn," said Gov. Jim Doyle. "They recognize that what happens in the classroom is directly related to what happens in the gymnasium, cafeteria, at home, and in the community. Their efforts take a comprehensive approach to reinforce healthy behaviors and educate students, staff, and families on how to make good health a lifelong endeavor."

"These awards allow both public and private schools to be recognized for developing and maintaining healthy school environments that support children's academic learning and long-term nutritional and physical health," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster.

The governor and state superintendent initiated the Governor's School Health Award program last fall to encourage and inspire schools to strengthen their efforts to create a healthy school environment that combats childhood obesity and contributes to increased student achievement and closing the achievement

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gap. Many schools had been taking steps in various nutrition and physical activity areas to improve the school setting. However, many of those steps were isolated or independent of a school-wide initiative. The Governor's School Health Award program packages key policies and programs to help schools deliver a more comprehensive school health program with an emphasis on nutrition and physical activity.

"A healthy school provides clear and consistent health messages, accurate health information, and ample opportunity to use it," Burmaster said. "We want to encourage Wisconsin families, teachers, school administrators, students, and community members to join forces to promote health and academic outcomes."

To earn a Governor's School Health Award, schools pre-register for the program via the web < www.schoolhealthaward.wi.gov >. They then assemble a team to review the school's health and physical activity programs and complete and submit the award application. A review panel from the departments of Health and Family Services and Public Instruction and the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health will evaluate the applications and recommend awards at the bronze, silver, and gold level. The topic areas for awards are

School Policies and Management, which includes having an advisory council and wellness policy;

Physical Education and Physical Activity, which includes meeting goals for students' physical activity as measured through class time and other tracking mechanisms, promoting physical activity outside of school, and establishing partnerships that support physical activity;

Healthy Eating and Nutrition Education, which includes offering school breakfast and school lunch programs that meet healthy school meals criteria, providing nutrition education, and offering more healthy food and beverage choices on the school campus both during the school day and after school;

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug-Free Lifestyles, which includes policies prohibiting alcohol, tobacco, and drug use on school property and at school functions; assessing student ATOD behavior, attitudes and perceptions; and providing an effective ATODA prevention program; and

Parent and School Partnerships, which includes parental involvement in school-sponsored education and promotion activities, a formal structure to foster parent and school partnerships, and surveying parents regarding student health and safety.

Sponsors for the award program are the Governor's Office, Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health, Department of Public Instruction, Department of Health and Family Services, and WEA Trust.

Schools interested in applying for the second round of Governor's School Health awards for this school year should register by April 21. Award application materials are due May 5 with awards to be presented in June. Visit < <http://www.schoolhealthaward.wi.gov> > for more information.